

insolvent banks, but at any rate, the directors who had subscribed a half million dollars, made no attempt to sell their worthless stock to strangers or to connive in any way to maintain the public impression that the inventor had discovered a new, limitless, and cheap energy. Doubtless if the president and Mrs. Keeley's attorney had taken the stock abroad they would have been able to sell it in the London Exchange or on the Bourse. Thus they might have saved their own property and escaped the obloquy of betraying life long friends and business associates. But with an unanimity, which encourages an optimistic view of Philadelphia human nature, they decided, just as soon as they were convinced of fraud, to disclose it to everybody so that no one else should be beguiled as they had been. Even if we have not reached that standard here it is encouraging to see that sleepy, slow Philadelphia has not allowed admiration for business activity to deceive her as to the difference between honesty and dishonesty.

A new club has been organized in Chicago called the Non-Sentimental club. It is to be supposed from the name that it is an organized effort to discourage sentimentalism, which is a long word for gush, and does not include charity or deeds of mercy. The mistakes which are caused by sentimentalism are mostly the work of women. When a depraved murderer is to be hanged, we send him cut flowers and set pieces representing the gates ajar, or a broken column or a pillow. When a brave man leads a forlorn hope or makes a stand in the last ditch, if he escape, we surround him, in public, and make ourselves and him ridiculous by kissing him and weeping over him. On the other hand, if he be killed and his body be not brought back in state, we do not retire to a private room and grieve for the hero that is no more. Our exhibitions of sentimentalism are always in public. Real feeling sometimes overcomes one in public but genuine grief longs for seclusion. Illogical and unreasonable bursts of sentimentalism discredit real occasions for pity or public expressions of appreciation. The outre scenes in Kansas City, where over two hundred women got in line to kiss Hobson, were a disgrace to the sex as well as to Hobson, who is old enough to have learned better. The function of the Non-Sentimental club will be one of calling the attention of women to such unreasonable and silly conduct. And it is not in Kansas City or Chicago alone that the women need discipline in restraint. Not so many years ago, in this city, a man was arrested for shooting another who was unarmed and was sitting down when the murderer shot him. It was a cowardly, brutal murder, by a man who claimed to be emotionally insane at the time. During the trial the court room was filled with women whose sympathies were all with the murderer. The victim was buried and his family were too reserved to use any factitious means for attracting the sympathy of the jury and the public. The very able council of the murderer secured an acquittal. When the judge announced the verdict of the jury there was a rush by the feminine portion of the audience for the murderer's neck. The women kissed him, presented him with flowers and congratulated him as though he deserved it. The man was a poltroon in his treatment of his wife, he allowed his little girl to be brought into court and confronted with a mass of pollution quite sufficient to forever destroy the purity and innocence of her thoughts. But none of these things was sufficient to prevent a

number of women from exalting him to a place he could not possibly hold. A club which should exact from its members conduct regulated by the code of good sense might have a tendency to reduce hysteria in Lincoln, which only awaits an occasion to be as strongly in evidence as in Kansas City. A sustained effort to be reasonable, sober and temperate in all things is enjoined by the tenets of the Non-Sentimental club and if a successful one could be carried on here it might result in a saving of energy which could be expended in a constant effort to make homes happier, this city cleaner, and the condition of the poor more tolerable and hopeful.

The costume of the soldiers in the present war conducted in the tropics on two sides of the world, is picturesque as well as comfortable. The canvas Norfolk jackets, with pockets and belt and the tight leggings about the calf, make an ensemble which should be perpetuated in sculpture. If the legislature should conclude to erect some memorial to the soldiers who died in the war, the form it shall take would be one of the first considerations. Harvard university erected a memorial hall and in the central nave or court which divides the two parts, placed the tablets containing the names of the undergraduates who enlisted and died in the war. Nebraska might build a state library and supreme court memorial building and in the rotunda place a statue of the volunteer of '98 and inscribe their names on the walls. The subject is one worthy of favorable consideration and should, at least, be presented to the legislature.

A large number of the papers of the state and almost without exception the leaders of the republican party, are opposed to the candidacy of Mr. D. E. Thompson. The legislature can ignore this righteous sentiment which grows stronger every day, but only at the expense of republicanism. The only hope of Mr. Thompson and his men is in a caucus with a secret ballot. A vote is not of much value to the man who casts it for some one else but if the man who needs it to become United States senator is willing to pay a thousand dollars for it, it is not for a canny and prudent member of a caucus to assume a stage hero attitude and to pretend to reject with scorn, what he really needs in his business, especially considering the valuelessness of his vote unless he sells it when there is a strong demand for it. And of course a caucus is a private arrangement among the legislators themselves and if their trade was discovered, there would be nothing illegal in selling a caucus vote. But republican sentiment is even more opposed to a secret caucus than to Mr. Thompson himself, and if Mr. Thompson is elected by such means the resentment will be increased rather than softened, because of the indirection and concealment of individual responsibility which characterize this method of electing a United States senator.

A secret vote for a candidate by a voter who represents only himself has admirable features. But the vote of a representative is different and the people for whom he casts his vote have a right to know whether he fulfilled his trust or sold it.

Surgeons and inspectors have confirmed the testimony of General Miles in regard to the army meat. Governor Roosevelt and Richard Harding Davis under their own signatures in current magazine articles, also say the meat, when not offensive, was unpalatable

and not nutritious. It is thus fairly well established that the meat was unfit for consumption and the packers shocked outcry when General Miles called their beef embalmed, was but a bluff, after all. There are many who still say that even if General Miles knew the beef had been embalmed he should have kept still on account of the injury such a charge might inflict on American beef exports. It is the old question of the relative importance of human beings and commerce. It seems to me that no crime is more abhorrent than sending bad meat to the soldiers of a republic, who serve their country from motives of the purest patriotism, only to be poisoned and starved by the agents of the government in collusion and contract with beef contractors. If the secretary of war and the commissary general were ignorant of the kind of canned meat sent to Cuba the fault is only slightly modified. The hundreds of dead men poisoned by the kind of rations issued to them forbid the wasting of any sentiment upon the heads of departments responsible for it.

The excuse for General Eagan's inefficient conduct of the commissary department is that which is generally alleged for the purely ornamental character of staff officers. They are without practical experience and they owe their position to pull rather than to ability and knowledge. But General Eagan's blackguardism of his superior officer, while the country is still in a state of war, has not even this excuse. If staff officers are drilled in anything, it is in etiquette and all forms, symbols and observances of military convention, and General Eagan knew how serious his offense was when he said that he would say words that would cause either himself or General Miles, to be driven out of the army but he thought it would be General Miles.

Representative Joseph Burns has introduced a bill in the house providing an appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars to begin the publication of school text books by the state. These books are to be compiled by the state superintendent, the chancellor of the university and the governor and printed on a job press owned by the state. The Fremont Tribune says, feelingly, that:

When the text books are thus brought into the politics of the state it may be taken for granted they will create an unprecedented political enthusiasm among the school ma'ams and school children of the state. Ballots will be printed on the fly leaves and platforms will be inserted in the body and profusely illustrated. Between editing these books, appointing political heelers to public places, approving bonds, regulating state investments and making campaign and other speeches the governor will find his time well occupied, though he will probably permit nothing to interfere with his getting out an interesting spelling book and a good reader setting forth the beauties of the initiative and referendum and a circulation of any old kind of money up to \$50 per capita.

January 27, 1899.

Editor Courier:

Some time ago I noticed your article on the management of county and city government, as well as the attempted reply of the Evening News. It is to be regretted that you could not have at your disposal all the facts. Because we hear so little about the county government is the principal reason why it is considered better. I shall undertake to present a few facts and comparisons and leave your readers to judge for themselves as to their relative economy. Twenty years ago the county commissioners were paid by the day and for

time actually spent in the service of the county and never did we know of their drawing over \$3,000, and the county was just as well governed then as it is now when we pay \$5,400 per year. Next, take the county clerk's office. The law says his salary shall be \$2,500 per year, he to be allowed a deputy and clerk provided the fees of the office will pay them all, and yet this year, without authority of law, the commissioners levy a tax of \$1,200 to pay the deputy county clerk. So we have the county clerk's office costing as follows:

Clerk, \$2,500; deputy, \$1,200; a clerk, \$700, and making tax duplicate \$800 more; total, \$5,200 as the cost of the office to the county, or \$700 more than under the former clerk, as against \$2,100 total cost of the city for clerk and deputy, who also make the tax duplicate without extra cost to the city.

The next office is that of county attorney, which cost the county \$4,600 in the year 1898, as compared to \$2,100 for the city attorney and his deputy and extra help in two cases. And no one who keeps track of affairs will deny that the city has had far more costly and important legislation than the county has had, and it has been conducted at about half the cost.

I cannot well make a comparison of the county treasurer with the city treasurer for the reason that the county treasurer collects part of the city taxes, and while the present efficient county treasurer is collecting more delinquent taxes than his predecessors, yet his office is costing more than at any other time. So it is in the sheriff's office and the office of county judge. We do not say this is wrong, but will ask where is the much boasted of economy practiced.

As to the work of the commissioners in spending the road and bridge funds it is about as follows: The total levy for roads raised about \$19,350, of which the county commissioners control \$6,500 in round figures and the clerk's figures given out show that the commissioners spent over \$12,600 or nearly double what they should have spent.

The natural roads of Nebraska are better than any made road except in low places, where the steam grader improved the roads and at somewhat less expense than by the old way, but it is doubtful, when all the cost is figured, whether it is not dearer. For instance, in one place where the road was good they graded about two miles with the steam grader and it took seventeen new culverts, mostly made of ash lumber. And when you take the \$1,200 Yankee Hill bridge and the Oak Creek bridge of the same cost, with no public roads, it is hard to see how the city government could have done worse. The county is getting in better condition financially and so is the city, and the reason is because people are paying their taxes. What we want more and more as the years go by is to have all public officers paid just the same as private person's pay for same service and exact from them the same faithful performance of the duties imposed.

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"What," thundered Mr. Meekton's wife, "do you think of this man who married three wives, and then wants to come to congress?"

"Well, Henrietta," he answered, as he gloomily tapped the edge of the table, "I dunno's I blame him for wanting to get away from home and come to Washington for a little while."

THE ORATOR.

I saw him stand upon the Judgment Day
Who in his life all human wrath
had braved,
The appealing angel in his voice, and says:
If but one soul be lost, how
is man saved?
—George E. Woodbury in the Century.